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White House
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THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

Of all historic public buildings in the United States the White House or the President's House as it was first called, is perhaps the most famous. The Home of the President for more than 160 years, this gracious white building at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has a unique appeal for all citizens. It is here, more than in any other public building in the country, that history becomes personalized.

With the exception of George Washington, who chose its site and was active in planning its design and execution, all the American presidents have lived in the White House, so that its history is inseparable from that of the country.

The White House has been the official center of the executive branch of the Government ever since President and Mrs. John Adams became its first occupants in 1800. Some of the most fateful decisions in the country's history have been made here. On another level the Home of the President has reflected, as it has influenced, the social and cultural history of the United States. Brilliant affairs have taken place within its walls--weddings, fetes and receptions--and such mournful events as the funeral services of the five presidents who have died in office.

Designed originally to avoid formal display the dignity and charm of the Executive Mansion have been retained through the reconstruction, enlargements

and complete renovation (in 1952) that fire, time and the growth of the country have necessitated.

The cornerstone of the White House was laid October 13, 1792. It was the first public building to be erected in the new city of Washington. During the War of Independence and the following period of the Confederation, Congress had met in eight cities. When the Constitution was adopted in 1789, it provided that Congress should have legislative control over a district to be selected as the permanent seat of the Government. The next year a Residence Bill was passed, stipulating that the Capital would remain in Philadelphia until 1800, when it was to be moved to a district located on the Potomac River. Three commissioners were appointed to lay out the Federal City, sell lots and erect a Capitol, President's House and other buildings.

To design the new city, President George Washington chose a French engineer, Major Pierre L'Enfant, who had fought for the United States during the Revolution. L'Enfant, described his prophetic vision of a beautiful, ordered city in a letter of application for the appointment. "The plan," he wrote, "should be drawn on such a scale as to leave room for that aggrandizement and embellishment which the increase in the wealth of the Nation will permit it to pursue, at any period however remote."

Two focal points in his plans, submitted in 1791, were the Capitol and the White House, which he called the President's Palace. Washington liked a ridge overlooking the Potomac for the site of the President's House. The land was part of a large plantation owned by a farmer, David Burns, whose cottage stood on the site of the present Pan-American Building. Burns was one of the major landowners with whom Washington made a famous agreement enabling the Government to purchase all necessary land for the city, at $67 an acre.

In March 1792, the commissioners offered "$500 or a gold medal of that value" for the best plan for a President's House. Among the designs submitted was one sent in anonymously by Thomas Jefferson, who as Secretary of State, had drawn up the competition. The identity of the author of the classic design, which was signed "A.Z.," was not discovered until his great-grandson found a duplicate of it in Jefferson's papers and matched them with "A.Z.'s" designs in the contest papers preserved in Baltimore.

President Washington was pleased with the response to the competition, noting: "I found...many well conceived and ingenious plans for the Public buildings in the New City; it was a pleasure indeed, to find, in an infant country, such a display of architectural abilities."

The winning design, chosen by Washington and the Commissioners, was by James Hoban, an Irish-born Charleston architect. His design, which had a restrained dignity that appealed to the builders of the new democracy, provided for a central building of three stories, with a pediment and Ionic columns on the north fronts and with provision for wings and other additions as the need arose.

Two sources are credited as the inspiration for Hoban's design. In the main facade, it resembles the Duke of Leinster's house in Dublin, then recently completed. In its other faces and in the interior plan it conforms more closely to "A Design for a Gentleman's House" shown in an English Book of Architecture by James Gibbs, then widely used by American architects.

Although the Hoban design was simple and dignified the size of the house and its grounds, then called the President's Square, seemed extravagantly large to some members of Congress. Washington defended the grounds in a letter, remarking: "I see no necessity for diminishing the Square allotted for the President's House...It is easier at all times to retrench than to enlarge a square."

To understand how large the plans for the President's House seemed it must be remembered that the Federal area was then largely rural. In 1800 there were fewer than 400 houses in the city, which had a population of 3,210. (The whole country had a population of about 5,000,000). Opposition to the cost of the plans caused them to be modified and only the central portion of Hoban's design was built.

Construction of the President's House proceeded slowly. The outer exterior walls were built of sandstone quarried at Aquia Creek, Virginia. Bricks for the house were baked on the site but most other materials had to be transported to the site by water. A shortage of skilled labor and lack of adequate funds slowed the House's progress.

The framing of the roof and the exterior walls were completed in 1798. At that time the walls were given a protective coat of paint and it was probably this first painting that led the President's House to be called the White House. After the British burned the House in 1814, the patched and smoke-darkened walls were again painted. From then on the name, White House, was used with increasing frequency; but it was not until Theodore Roosevelt's administration that the popular name became an official one.

When President and Mrs. John Adams became its first occupants in 1800, the President's House was still unfinished. President Adams arrived in Washington first. From the White House on November 2, he wrote a letter to his wife Abigail, in which he said: "I pray to heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house, and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof." More than 130 years later President Franklin D. Roosevelt had this prayer carved on the mantlepiece of the State Dining Room.

When Mrs. Adams joined her husband at the White House, she was impressed by its size and by the view from her window, which showed the ships passing up

and down the Potomac to the port of Alexandria. The unfinished interior of the house, however, caused her much distress. On November 21, 1800, the first First Lady of the White House described its pleasures and problems to her sister: "The house is upon a grand and superb scale, requiring about 30 servants to attend and keep the apartments in proper order and perform the ordinary business of the house and stables; an establishment very well proportioned to the President's salary." (This was then   annually.)

"The lighting of the apartments, from the kitchen to parlours and chambers, is a tax indeed; and the fires we are obliged to keep to secure us from daily agues is another cheering comfort. To assist us in this great castle, and render less attendanse necessary, bells are wholly wanting, not one single one being hung through the whole house, and promises are all you can obtain."

The bells were not hung until the spring of 1801 when Thomas Jefferson lived in the house. Mrs. Adams continues: The main staircase was not finished and would not be that winter. The grounds were entirely unlandscaped and "we have not the least fence, yard or other convenience, without and the great unfinished audience-room I make a drying room of, to hang up the clothes." This audiense room was the unfinished East Room, the grand reception hall and ballroom of the White House, which was not to be completed until 1829.

In the whole house, Mrs. Adams explained, only "Six chambers are made comfortable; two are occupied by the President and Mr. Shaw. Shaw was using two lower rooms for a common parlour, and one for a levee room, Upstairs there is the oval room, which is designed for the drawing room, and has the crimson furniture in it. It is a very handsome room now; but when completed it will be beautiful..."

Mrs. Adams' favorite room was the one directly above the Blue Room, whose

oval or elliptecal shape it duplicates. For many years now it has been the President's Study; but in 1801 it was the main drawing room of the unfinished President's House. There the New Year Reception of 1801, the first large-scale event held at the White House, took place. Guests were received by the President in full dress. He wore, in the fashion of Washington, a suit of black velvet with silk stockings, silver knee and shoe buckles, white waistcoat, powerded hair and gloves. Beginning a tradition that continues today, the Marine Band played for the reception.

For the three and one half months of Adams' term in the executive mansion the formal procedures adopted by President and Mrs. Washington were followed. When Thomas Jefferson became the third president, and the first to live a full term in the White House, his approach to the role was quite different.

The development of a diplomatic tradition and methods of handling executive functions are as much a part of the living history of the White House as are its architectural and interior detail. For it was in the drawing rooms, at the dining table and in the study of the President's House that their development took place.

During the early years of the White House its occupants had few precedents to follow in drawing up a code of behavior that would suit the democratic national temperament and yet be proper for our dealings with foreign countries. The first two presidents were influenced by European court behavior. In suceeding years different presidents followed other ways. These ranged from the simplicity of the Jefferson and Jackson administrations to the formal ones of James Monroe and others. In the President's House the intimate details of official receptions and protocol were decided.

Jefferson announced that he would abolish the weekly receptions and other formal affairs at the White House and have only two receptions a year: on January 1st and July 4th. At his first reception in July 1801 he instituted

the custom of handshaking, in place of bowing as Washington and Adams had done. His successive receptions--which were open to all--attracted such crowds that temporary booths and tents were placed about the grounds to serve them. To the astonishment of European diplomats Jefferson received foreign ministers and citizens alike. The American Indians had diplomatic representation in his time and at one famous reception visitors watched with interest while the new minister from Tunisia removed his turban to show the Osage Indians that his head, like theirs, was shaved.

Construction continued on the President's House during Jefferson's term. Although his anonymous plans for the house had been passed over Jefferson's design for the east and west terraces were used during his term in their construction. These were similar to the wings he had already designed for his Monticello home. And with Benjamin Latrobe, whom he appointed architect for the development of the White House, Jefferson revised the design for the South Portico and colaborated on one for the North Portico. Both designs had only been roughed in on the Hoban plans.

Jefferson's attention to the appearance of the executive mansion was not confined to its architecture. From his records we know that he selected furniture for 23 rooms, introduced materials like chintz and dimity in place of more favored and formal silks and brocades, and brought the first gilt furniture, then a new French fashion, into the President's House. For his own comfort and that of White House guests Jefferson designed several ingenious contrivances. Among these were a turnstile machine for hanging clothes in his bedroom closet and circular revolving shelves in the dining room.

Jefferson was a widower when he became president. When he needed a hostess for White-House functions he often asked the wife of his Secretary of State, Dolley Madison, to serve. On such occasions a messenger would be sent to the Madison house with the note: "Thomas Jefferson begs Mrs. Madison

to take care of female friends expected..."

When James Madison became president Dolley Madison was already a famous Washington hostess. To the President's House she restored some of the brilliance and glitter of European courts, but when Madison took his oath of office for a second term in 1813 the country was at war with England.

On August 24, 1814, British troops captured the city. Arriving at a deserted White House late in the evening, (Madison had left to join the Army; Dolley had fled for Virginia) the British burned the building, in retaliation for destruction by American troops of some public buildings in Canada.

When the Madisons returned to Washington a few days later they found that only the partially damaged sandstone walls and the interior brickwork of the President's House had survived the fire. Of their own possessions and those of the White House nothing remained except the little Mrs. Madison had been able to take with her, and the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington, which had hung in the State Dining Room since 1800. Mrs. Madison tells the celebrated story of her rescue of the painting, which now hangs in the east Room, in a letter written to her sister the afternoon of the fire: "Our kind friend, Mr. Carroll, has come to hasten my departure, and is in a very bad humor with me because I insist on waiting until the large picture of Gen. Washington is secured, and it required to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found too tedious for these perilous moments: I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvas taken out: it is done--and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen of New York for safekeeping."

For more than a year after the fire the presidential home was Octagon House, Col. John Tayloe's home at . Later the Adamses moved to the corner house of the "Seven Buildings," which used to stand at 19th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Restoration of the White House was begun in 1815, under the supervision of James Hoban. Before the house could be restored the damaged interior had to be torn down and debris removed. Actual rebuilding of the house began in 1816, with a provision from President Madison that its original design be maintained.

Except for the East Room and the North and South Porticos, which had not been erected prior to the burning, the President's House was completed in December 1817 when President and Mrs. James Monroe moved in. For the first few months of his term the Monroes had lived in their own home on I Street. A quantity of fine furniture and decorations had been ordered from France by the Monroes to furnish the restored but empty President's House. To serve until this shipment arrived furniture from the Monroes' own fine collection was appraised and purchased by Government contract for use in the President's House. Among the Monroe items were silver bowls and utensils, which the Government paid for by weight. The bill was not figured in round numbers either: two soup ladles cost \$9.56½ and four serving dishes, \$402.97½.

The restored White House was opened to the public New Years Day 1818. President Monroe believed that use of European diplomatic formality in the President's House would help the new republic in its dealings with those nations. He wanted, he said, to place foreign diplomats in Washington "upon much the same footing as the American Ministers were placed in European Courts, upon a footing of form and ceremony." His administration drew up the first formal code of social precedence in the United States, with official rank as a basis. This code, with certain modifications, has been retained to the present time.

The new White House furnishings provided a fitting background for the formality of Monroe's administration. The large oval receptions room (Blue Room) shone with carved and gilded furniture, covered in crimson satin. For the

floor there was a green Aubusson rug, interwoven with the arms of the United States. Among the elegant pieces which Monroe ordered from France and which are among the most distinguished pieces in the White House today are the massive mirror and gold centerpiece and accompanying ornaments in the State Dining Room and two gift clocks known as the Hannibal and Minerva clocks, now used in the Green and Blue Rooms respectively. From Europe Monroe also ordered state china and silver plate, the first to be decorated with the seal of the U. S.

During the last year of Monroe's term the curving South Portico of the house was completed. In 1829, during the first year of Andrew Jackson's administration, the North Portico was built and the East Room completely decorated and furnished for the first time. These two improvements at last brought the President's House to completion, according to its original plan.

The East Room had first been floored in 1818, when the walls and ceilings were also plastered, but lack of funds had kept it half-empty. An 1825 inventory lists these as the principal furnishings of the room: 24 large mahogany armchairs, 4 large sofas, all unfinished, and eight pine tables. The pine tables were a homely note for so grandly-conceived a room.

Jackson had a strong interest in seeing the President's House completed and well furnished. During his two terms $45,000 was granted for furnishings for the house, including $10,000 to make the East Room the stately one its size demanded.

The walls of the East Room were covered with lemon-yellow paper and gilded chairs and sofas upholstered in blue damask placed against them. Three gilded bronze chandeliers were hung from the ceiling and heavy curtains of blue and yellow at the large windows. The floor was covered with 500 yards of Brussels carpet. Four mantels of black Italian marble were installed, with

mirrors above. On the cornice was a line of gilded stars and over the semicircle of the door were 24 gold stars, representing the states.

Receptions under Jackson were large and, like those of Jefferson, open to all, He carried the belief that democratic behaviour should be simple and unceremonious far beyond Jefferson's and earned for his administrations the name "the era of frontier democracy." After his inaugural ceremony Jackson invited everyone over to the President's House for refreshments. The crowd was so large and so pressing that Jackson was forced to flee the White House by a back route, to return to his Washington lodgings. His weekly drawing room and other public receptions were so informal that they were announced to the newspapers in advance, as an invitation to the public.

Almost as large as his receptions were those held by Abrhham Lincoln. For these too, invitations were not required and eager crowds poured into the White House to glimpse the President during the tense days of his terms. The New Year receptions were maintained during the years of the Civil War. Starting at nine in the morning the President and Mrs. Lincoln greeted, one by one, diplomats, Congressmen, Army officers and other officials. At noon the door of the White House was opened to the public and for two hours people passed by the President and his wife, and then left the East Room through a temporary exit in one of its large windows.

It was after such a reception on January 1, 1863, that Secretary of State Seward brought Lincoln the Emancipation Proclamation for his signature. Before signing the document, in a second floor office, Lincoln complained of the weariness in his arm. "I have been shaking hands since nine o'clock this morning and my right arm is paralyzed. If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it. If my hand trembles when I sign the Proclamation all who examine the document hereafter will say 'he hesitated!"

From 1829 until 1902 no important structural features of the White House were

added, although many modern improvements continued to be made. Water was piped into the building in 1834 and gas lighting introduced in 1848. At intervals later a hot water heating system, an elevator, and electricity were installed. During President Andrew Jackson's term the east terrace was entirely removed.

By 1902 the interior of the house was a confused mixture of styles. Rooms had been decorated and refurnished by succeeding administrations in the various tastes of the times. Few rooms were harmonious with the Georgian simplicity of the House's architecture. Structural repairs were also necessary. Accordingly, Congress appropriated more than a half million dollars to repair and refurnish the house and to construct new offices for the president.

This separation of residence and executive offices reestablished the second floor as living quarters. The offices were built in a new wing, west of the West Terrace, where--expanded--they remain today.

Virtually the whole first floor had to be rebuilt and the second story floors [redacted] strengthened . The main stairway of the house, which dated from President Ulysses Grant's time, was removed from the west end of the corridor to its present location between the East Room and the lobby. This enabled the architects (McKim, Mead, and White) to enlarge the State Dining Room. The East Terrace was also reconstructed.

During the restoration the President and his family lived at No. 22 Jackson Place, on the west side of Lafayette Park. At the end of the restoration President Theodore Roosevelt announced that the "White House...was restored to the beauty, dignity and simplicity of its original plan."

In decorating the enlarged State Dining Room a decorative ceiling was installed and the walls of the room were covered with carved oak panelling. On these walls, now painted light greet, Roosevelt hung heads of American game animals. A window in the west wall of the room was closed to permit the intro-

duction of a large open fireplace. The mantel installed by the architects had lion heads carved on it. These heads the President had removed, at his own considerable expense, in order to replace them with carvings of the heads of an American animal, the buffalo.

The East Room was also redecorated. New features were the massive crystal chandeliers and wall panels designed by sculptor Lee Lawrie. Four years later this room was the setting of one of the most brilliant weddings ever to take place in the White House, when President Roosevelt's popular daughter Alice was married to Nicholas Longworth on February 17, 1906. One thousand guests were invited to the formal noon wedding. Breakfast for the bridal party was held in the Private Dining Room while other guests were served in the State Dining Room. Among the wedding gifts the bride received were a necklace of 63 matched pearls with a diamond clasp from the Republic of Cuba, a dower chest filled with rare silks, embroideries and ivory carvings from the Empress Dowager of China; a tapestry from the President of France and other gifts from the Emperors of Japan and Austria, from the Kings of Italy and Spain, and others. The gala wedding was far different from the White House wedding of a president's daughter, when the Monroe's youngest girl Maria was married in 1820, only relatives and close personal friends were present. More festive was the East Room wedding of President Ulysses S. Grant's daughter Nellie, who became the wife of Algernon C. Sartoris in 1874.

Not a wedding reception but surely one of the most interesting receptions held in the White House must have been the visit of Queen Emma of Hawaii who came to the White House in the summer of 1866. President Johnson received her in the Red Room and then opened the doors of the executive mansion to all who wished to see the Hawaiian Queen.

A poignant reminder that all is not formality and glitter on state occasions at the White House is contained in the following quotation from a

letter written in 1841 by Priscilla Tyler, who was acting as White House hostess for her father-in-law, President John Tyler:

"My first state dinner is over; oh! such a long one, our first dinner in the state dining room. I was the only lady at the table....I tried to be cheerful as possible, though I felt miserable all the time, as my baby was crying, and I received message after message to come to the nursery."

Between 1903 and 1948 a few important changes were made in the White House. The Executive Office building was enlarged in 1910; several guest rooms were made in the attic during Wilson's term, and the roof and third story were remodeled in 1927.

Early in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt funds were raised by public subscription for construction of a swimming pool. A few years later a modern electric kitchen was installed and a basement dug under the North Portico. During World War II the East Wing was constructed. Built of extra-heavy, shatter-proof masonry with a limestone exterior and a 12-inch-thick concrete roof, this building includes an air-raid shelter, police quarters and storerooms. In this period a motion picture theatre was also put in under the east terrace and a small gymnasium set up near the pool. In 1946 a balcony was built off the second floor, behind the columns of the South Portico, which provided a private porch for the president's family.

Through the years of separate alterations and additions many of the old wooden beams and interior walls of the White House had been weakened. In 1948 President Harry Truman became worried by the trembling of the chandelier in the Blue Room ceiling and the ghostly vibrations in the floor of his study and other rooms in the house. When an investigation of the house was made

such alarming conditions were discovered that the President and his family moved across the street into Blair House. The White House furnishings were removed for storage and a thorough survey of the house made.

The survey revealed that beams were inadequately supported; that heavy ceilings had dropped several inches and that even the foundations were too weak to support the walls erected on them. Some of the shocking details of the report noted: that the bricks supporting the main stairway upon which hundreds of visitors had daily climbed, were crumbling; that the second floor was a major fire hazard; that the enormous, heavily decorated East Room ceiling, which weighed 70 pounds to the square inch, had already sagged six inches!

Careful study showed that there was no way to save the mansion except by complete removal of the inadequate interior construction and by carrying all footings down to safer bearing soil. Only the exterior walls, the fireproof roof and the third floor framing could be retained. In 1949 Congress authorized the establishment of a Commission on Renovation of the Executive Mansion to decide whether to raze the White House and replace it with a new building or to preserve as much of the old one as possible.

The decision, announced after long discussion, was that the old sandstone walls would be retained and the building within would be reconstructed according to the original plan.

Reconstruction was begun December 1949 and by the autumn of 1950 the most critical phase of this tremendous undertaking was accomplished. The old walls were underpinned with concrete piers, some having footings 24 to 27 feet below ground level. The wooden beams and brick supporting walls of the interior

were replaced by a modern steel framework. Concrete floors were laid and partition walls erected.

The excavation necessary for the construction of the underpinnings provided the new White House with a basement and a mezzanine floor. These are used for machinery and electrical equipment and for storage and service facilities.

Preparation for the interior finish of the house was made as the outer construction proceeded. In order to recreate the house in its historic image the original size of all public rooms and nearly all ceiling levels were maintained. Much plaster work was preserved intact for replacement or exactly reproduced from the original pattern. In some cases it was redesigned and simplified. As far as possible the woodwork was also preserved. The carved oak panelling in the State Dining Room was exactly replaced and the solid mahogany doors used in the old house now serve the new interior.

Some pleasant surprises turned up in the course of renovating. In breaking through plaster cornices in a hallway, for example, some of Hoban's original ornamental cornices, dated 1817 were discovered and incorporated in the new decor.

In addition to making the White House as fireproof and durable as possible, the renovation also made it more comfortable and efficient. Where there were formerly 48 rooms and 14 baths in the residential part of the house there are now 54 rooms and 16 baths. The total number of White House Rooms has been increased from 62 to 132. Altogether Congress appropriated $5,761,000 for the renovation. The Truman family moved back to the White House in March 1952, in time

to receive Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands as their first house guests in the new White House.

* Compare this figure with that for the cost of the first President's House, when $232,371.83 was spent from the beginning of construction to January 1, 1801.

INTERIOR

Furnishings and decoration of the White House are predominantly Georgian in style. The recent renovation made every effort to retain or restore the original atmosphere of the house. Still among the most interesting pieces are those ordered by President Monroe to refurnish the house after its burning in 1814. Other antiques have recently been acquired by gift. Under the leadership of the First Lady, Mrs. John F. Kennedy, the new "Committee of the Fine Arts Commission for the White House" is expected to obtain other English, French and American antiques, of the kind used in the United States in 1802, the year the White House was first adequately furnished.

Portraits of former presidents hang in the lobby, corridor and public rooms of the White House. Most of them belong to the formal collection of presidential portraits which was begun in 1857. Star of the collection is a picture that antedates it, the Stuart portrait of Washington which is the only picture that has been in the White House since it was built. Among the portraits of some special interest to art and social historians are those by George P.A. Healy, whose signature appears on six of them. Healy, who was a prolific and popular portrait painter of the mid-19th century, painted the portrait of Lincoln after the president sat for him in 1864. Eastman Johnson, a prominent 19th century American artist, and Ralph Earl, the son and namesake of one of America's colonial painters, are also represented. In addition to the portraits commissioned for the White House other paintings of presidents and their wives have been given to the collection.

The interior of the main floor of the White House follows the original Hoban plan, except for the two changes made in 1902: the enlargement of the

State Dining Room and the placement of the main stairs.

To the right of the entrance door is a small room, first known as the Porter's Lodge and now the Usher's Room. Immediately to the left is a passageway to the East Room.

LOBBY AND MAIN CORRIDOR

Entered from the North Portico the Lobby provided a stately introduction to the White House, one which is characterized by a feeling of space light and dignity. Six classic columns separate the lobby, which is 45-feet wide and 31 feet deep, from the long red-carteted corridor into which all state public rooms open. A large cylindrical lantern with glass panels hangs from the center of the lobby and is balanced by a pair of graceful chandeliers hung to the left and right on the corridor ceiling. These three lighting arrangements, airily suspended to punctuate the spaciousness of the rooms, enhance their effect.

INSERT SIX PAGES

There is only one private room on the first floor: The Family Dining Room. This square room with a vaulted ceiling has the only chandelier in the White House that is still lighted with candles. A butler's pantry, which also opens into the State Dining Room, connects it with the ground floor kitchen.

SECOND FLOOR

The second and third floors of the White House are reserved for the family and guests of the President. During the 1952 renovation changes were made to make these rooms more convenient and comfortable, but the general plan follows the original one. In 1961 a kitchen, butler's pantry and dining room were installed for the use of the President and his family.

The hall of the second floor is divided into three areas with the center serving as a passageway and the two ends furnished as sitting rooms. For many years the rooms to the west have been the First Family's living quarters. From the Jackson period until 1902 the east rooms were used for presidential offices and Cabinet meetings. After executive offices were housed in a separate building, the east rooms became the principal guest rooms.

THE PRESIDENT'S STUDY

In the early years of the White House this stately oval room, directly above the Blue Room, was variously used as a drawing room, a library and a sitting room. In modern times it has been a study for the President, whose office is in the Executive Building.

THE MONROE ROOM

East of the Study is the Monroe Room. First used as a sitting room and later as part of the Cabinet offices the room was the home of Cabinet meetings from 1865 until 1902. The Treaty of Peace between the United States

and Spain was signed here on August 12, 1898. The room was restored in the Monroe tradition by President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover. The first press conferences held by a First Lady were conducted here by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

LINCOLN ROOM

Next to the Monroe Room are the two rooms which form the Lincoln suite. The large room near the southeast corner was used for Cabinet meetings from the Jackson period until the administration of Johnson. Here Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863. When the Executive Office Building was erected in 1902 the room became a guest bedroom. During the Hoover term a number of furnishings dating from Lincoln's time were placed here. Later Lincoln's carved, 7-foot-long bed was brought in. Other Lincoln furnishings include Cabinet chairs, an elaborately carved table and bureau and the desk and mantel clock used in his summer residence at the Soldier's Home. The late King George VI, during his visit to the United States in 1939, stayed in the Lincoln room.

ROSE ROOM

The principal guest room of the White House is the Rose Room, opposite the Lincoln Room. Furnishings include some of the oldest pieces in the White House, among them a four-poster mahogany bed with canopy overhead. Queen Elizabeth stayed here during her 1939 visit, as did Winston Churchill, when he visited the White House.

THIRD FLOOR

In the 1952 renovation the general plan of the third floor was retained but additional rooms and baths were provided and other rooms made more comfortable. It now has 31 room and 9 baths, many of them furnished with reproductions of 18th century pieces. A ramp leads from the corridor to the

solarium over the South Portico, giving the White House family a private place in the sun.

GROUND FLOOR

The public entrance to the White House is through a foyer at the end of the East Terrace. The foyer opens to a marble-walled and floored corridor extending the length of the ground floor. The low plaster ceiling is vaulted.

On the north side of the corridor are the Library, Broadcasting and Conference Room, Kitchen and Pantry. On the south side are the Social Room, China Room, Diplomatic Reception Room, Ladies Powder Room and medical and housekeeping offices.

During the 1952 renovation the walls of the Library, China Room and Cloakroom were panelled in pine from the old beams of the White House.

THE LIBRARY

The Library was first remodeled in 1937, after serving workaday functions as a cloakroom, storage room and even, prior to 1902, a laundry room. Now a comfortable, informal room in which to relax and browse among the books, it combines old and recent history. Besides the wall panelling, the pine mantle and sandstone facing of the fireplace were part of the old house. The blue and white tiles bordering it were planned by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, for use in his Hyde Park Library. They were designed, by artist William Hartgroves, to show scenes in the life of a president. Roosevelt died before they were completed and President Truman had them placed here. President and Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower were televised in the Library the night of his reelection.

CHINA ROOM

About 275 pieces of china, silver and glassware, representing table furnishings used by the presidential families, are displayed in this room. The White House china collection was begun under Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, by Mrs. Abby Gunn Baker. President Jackson's fine French dinner and dessert sets decorated with the American eagle; a unique set of Haviland china, ordered by Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes and featuring paintings of plants and animals of the United States, which were designed by an American artist, Theodore Davis; and a small set of Haviland china designed by Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, using stars, Indian corn and goldenrod, are among those represented in the selection of china used by First Ladies before state china was first ordered during the Wilson administration. Examples of the three sets of American made Lenox State china, selected by Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mrs. Truman, each containing service for 100 people, are also shown.

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM

This charming oval room, directly under the Blue Room, was first remodeled in 1902 as a lobby for the entrance of ambassadors and other high-ranking guests. In 1952 it was entirely redecorated. Among the furnishings is an American-made rug with the seal of the 50 states woven in an inner border, making it the first furnishing in the White House to recognize the new states. Since it is through this room that members of the presidential family enter and leave the White House in privacy, it is fitting that the old President's Seal, which was inlaid in the first floor lobby from 1902 until 1952, is now in a position above the north entrance to the room. Portraits of First Ladies decorate the walls and a collection of 26 porcelain plates with paintings

of Presidents' wives are displayed in two cases in the room. The plates were painted by S. Wagner of the Royal Berlin Factory and given to the White House in honor of Mrs. Eisenhower.

BROADCASTING ROOM

In the 1952 renovation the original White House kitchen was put to an interesting and unforseen use when it became a broadcasting and conference room. Modern soundproof walls and ceilings were installed, while the old sandstone fireplaces on the eastern and western sides of the room were reset. Above one fireplace are stones, saved from the old house, these bear Masonic symbols cut on them by the men who built the first President's House.

THE GROUNDS

The grounds of the White House have been landscaped simply, in keeping with the quiet, dignified atmosphere of the House. L'Enfant's original plan of the City of Washington called for the President's Park to extend from H Street on the north to the Potomac River on the south, between 15th and 17th Streets. Today 18 acres surround the White House. In addition to the enclosed area the "President's Park" also includes an outer portion of 52 acres known as the "Grounds South of the Executive Mansion." This land includes the Ellipse. Eight gateways lead to the White House grounds. The main approach to the House is from the north, through a semi-circular driveway opening from gates on Pennsylvania Avenue and passing under the North Portico.

The grounds contain about 250 trees, representing more than 50 species. The handsome shrubs include some fine English boxwood, the largest of which is as old as the White House.

Oldest tree is a large American elm, standing high on a knoll, which was planted by John Qunicy Adams, the only son of a president to become a

Chief Executive. Standing to one side of the South Portico are two magnolia trees planted by Andrew Jackson. These were saplings transplanted from his Hermitage home, in memory of Jackson's wife, who died shortly after his election and was buried the day before Christmas in the white satin gown she had bought to wear for her husband's inauguration. The trees, now grown to magnificent size, are among the most beautiful on the grounds. Other trees were planted by presidents and their wives. Two lindens planted by Franklin D. Roosevelt commemorate the Coronation of George VI.

There are no cherry trees on the White House grounds but it was a First Lady Mrs. W. Howard Taft, who first had the idea of a cherry blossom season in Washington. During her husband's administration the Mayor of Tokyo arranged for his city to send 3,000 cherry trees to the Capital.

The White House has several gardens. First planned and treated as old-fashioned Colonial gardens by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, the gardens were redesigned by the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. Her rose garden is used for outdoor ceremonies.

The custom of Easter-egg rolling on the White House lawn was inaugurated by President Hayes. When he heard that the children of Washington would not be allowed to roll eggs on the Capitol grounds he invited them to come over to his lawn. Except in wartime, the children have continued to come.

THE ENTRANCE LOBBY AND MAIN CORRIDOR

The main entrance to the White House, used by official guests, is through the north portico which leads into a large lobby. Beyond the lobby, extending east and west, is a long corridor. The entrance to the main stairway, formerly from the corridor, was changed in 1952 to the east side of the lobby. Seals of the Thirteen Original States are carved on the marble-faced opening of the stairway.

Six classic columns separate the lobby and main corridor. The columns and the pilasters spaced along the walls are of vari-colored Vermont marble. The floors of pink and gray Tennessee marble are laid in pattern. On the floor, between the central columns, the dates 1792-1902 and 1817-1952 are inscribed in an ellipse of 48 stars. Window hangings are red and the rug which covers the corridor floor is of the same color.

A large electric lantern illuminates the north portico, and a vestibule of glass framed in aluminum gives access to the lobby. At the center of the lobby is a bronze lantern, acquired in 1902. A pair of fine crystal chandeliers, anonymously presented in 1946, hang from the ceiling of the corridor. Additional lighting is provided by bronze standards in the lobby and corridor. Around the walls are 12 walnut benches upholstered in red Damask, acquired in 1902. A large mirror, dating from 1902, reaches from the floor to the ceiling on the west side of the lobby.

On opposite walls of the lobby are portraits of Presidents Thomas Jefferson (1884) and Andrew Jackson (1879) by E. F. Andrews. Portraits along the walls of the corridor are: President William McKinley (1902)

by Wm. D. Murphy; Presidents Martin Van Buren (1858) and James K. Polk (1858) by Geo. P. A. Healy, and President Abraham Lincoln (1916) by George Henry Story (Loan-Smithsonian Institution). On the walls of the stairway are portraits of Presidents Warren G. Harding (1930) by F. Luis Mora, and Ulysses S. Grant (1875) by Henry Ulke.

THE EAST ROOM

The East Room, scene of brilliant state functions, is the grand ballroom and reception hall of the White House. It is the largest room in the Mansion, covering the entire east end of the first floor. Guests assemble here for social affairs and musicales, usually held after dinners, where 400 persons can be seated comfortably.

Famous weddings and funeral ceremonies have taken place here. The weddings include those of Nellie Grant, daughter of President Grant; Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt, and Jessie Wilson, daughter of President Wilson. Funeral services were held here for Presidents William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, Warren G. Harding, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The East Room is decorated in white and gold. White enameled wood paneling covers the walls, and spaced at intervals are six low-relief panels. The floor is of oak parquetry in Fontainebleau design.

Most of the furnishings acquired in 1902-3 are still in use. The large crystal chandelier hangs from an elaborately decorated plaster ceiling. Four gilt mirrors, surmounted with eagles, extend above the rouge antique marble mantels. The windows are draped in lemon-gold and white silk damask from gilded wood cornices. Gilt benches along the walls are upholstered in the same colors. Two gilt sofas, gifts in 1951, are upholstered in blue damask. The gilded consoles with marble tops, jardinieres placed on them, candelabra on the mantels, bronze light standards and andirons date from 1902.

On the mantels are bisque copies of Houdon busts of Washington, Franklin and Jefferson, and the Volk bust of Lincoln, presented in 1908-9 by the French Ambassador. The white marble urn on the east side of the

room was donated in 1947. The mahogany concert grand piano, decorated with dancing scenes, was presented December 10, 1938 by Theodore Steinway.

Full-length portraits of George and Martha Washington hang on the east wall. The Washington portrait, painted in 1797 by Gilbert Stuart, is the one saved by Dolley Madison. Mrs. Washington's portrait was painted in 1878 by E. F. Andrews.

THE GREEN ROOM

The Green Room is one of the three public parlors in the White House. In 1800, this parlor was referred to as "Common Dining Room", and it was the "Card Room" during the Monroe administration. It is used principally for informal receptions, and by the First Lady to receive afternoon tea guests. Diplomats and their wives are also received in the Green Room.

The wall covering, above the white enameled wainscoting, and draperies are of green silk damask. The gilded curtain poles, acquired in 1902, are identical with those in the Red Room. A green Aubusson rug, centered with the President's seal, covers the oak floor. The white Carrara marble mantel, imported from Italy in 1819, is a companion to that in the Red Room.

The Green Room, in keeping with its functions, contains chairs and sofas grouped for informal entertainment. A special advisory committee selected most of the present furniture in recent years. The crystal chandelier was presented during the Hoover administration.

On the south end of the room is a gilt framed mirror dating from 1902. Beneath it is an 18-th century commode, donated in 1947, on which ~~a reproduction of a Monroe bureau, with brass gallery and marble top. On the bureau~~ are silver-gilt pieces from the Biddle Collection-a pair of early 19th-century candlesticks, and a vase urn with mythological scenes, about 1800.

The Hannibal clock on the mantel was purchased in 1817 from France. The Etruscan vases, on each side of the clock, were part of the table center-piece set of the State Dining Room, also imported by Monroe.

Above the mantel is the portrait of President Franklin Pierce painted in 1858 by G. P. A. Healy, and President Millard Fillmore's

portrait by the same artist (1865) hangs on the west wall. The north wall has portraits by E. F. Andrews of Presidents Zachary Taylor (1879), and Andrew Johnson (1880); President Calvin Coolidge by Charles S. Hopkinson (1932), and President Dwight D. Eisenhower by Thomas Stephens (1960).

THE BLUE ROOM

The Blue Room is the official reception room or "State Parlor" of the White House. Here the President and the First Lady receive distinguished visitors and guests at state dinners and receptions.

In the original plans of the White House, the Blue Room was called the "Drawing Room". It has also been known as the "Oval Reception Room", the "Elliptical Drawing Room", and the "Circular Room". The room was first decorated in blue by Martin Van Buren. Famous for its elliptical shape, the Blue Room has usually been considered the most beautiful room in the White House.

The wall covering is deep blue silk damask with a gold motif woven in the field, with draperies of the same material. The floor is of white oak parquetry in herringbone design and the wainscoting is white enamel. The mantel, installed in 1902, is of white marble carved and ornamented in bronze. An 18th-century Adam mirror with gilt frame, presented in 1946, is placed above the mantel. The two dark blue vases, in front of the windows, were gifts in 1898 of the President of the Republic of France.

In the Blue Room, the furniture is white trimmed with gold, and upholstered in material to match draperies and wall covering. This set of furniture, including sofas, chairs and footstools, was acquired in 1902-1903. The crystal chandelier, was [redacted] presented early in the Truman administration.

On the mantel is a gilt clock, representing Minerva (Goddess of Wisdom) which was purchased in France by President Monroe. The gilt candlesticks on the mantel also were imported from France in 1817.

On the center table is a large elephant urn (late 19th-century) which is one of the silver-gift pieces of the Biddle collection.

With the advent of the Kennedy administration, portraits were placed on the walls of the Blue Room for the first time since 1902. The portrait of John Quincy Adams (1864) by G. P. A. Healy hangs on the north-east wall. On the opposite wall is the portrait of General George Washington (1890) by Luis Cadena.

THE RED ROOM

A companion to the Green Room, the Red Room is used as a reception room and by the First Lady to receive guests. It was referred to in 1800 as the President's "Anti-Chamber," and as the "Yellow Drawing Room." Under John Tyler it was called the "Washington Room" since the famous Washington portrait then hung in the room. The oath of office, the only such occurrence in the White House, was taken in the Red Room by Rutherford B. Hayes on March 3, 1877.

The wall covering is of red silk damask and the wainscoting of white enamel. A red Aubusson rug, with the President's seal at the center, covers the white oak floor in Marie Antoinette design. The white marble mantel is a twin to that in the Green Room. On it are two 18th-century candelabra and a musical clock, gifts in 1952 of President Auriol of France. A crystal chandelier, presented in 1951, hangs from the center of the ceiling.

Some of the furnishings of the Red Room were selected by the White House Furnishings Committee. The armchairs, upholstered in white silk damask, and a settee, upholstered in red silk damask, were purchased in 1936, and the large sofa was presented in 1952. Along the south wall is a reproduction of a Monroe bureau, with brass gallery and marble top. Placed on it are a pair of gilt candelabra from the Monroe period, and two 3-branch candelabra (1810) from the Biddle collection. A pair of single candlesticks, 18th-century, from the Biddle collection are on the tables by the fireplace.

The portrait of President Woodrow Wilson (F. Graham Cootes, 1936) is placed over the mantel of the Red Room. On the east wall is the portrait of Mrs. Calvin Coolidge (Howard Chandler Christy, c. 1924). Other portraits

are of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Zachary Taylor, John Adams, Franklin D. Roosevelt, William Henry Harrison, James A. Garfield, Harry S. Truman, Andrew Jackson, James Madison, Grover Cleveland and Herbert Hoover.

THE STATE DINING ROOM.

The room in the southwest corner of the first floor was originally designated as the "Library and Cabinet Room." Used for these purposes during early administrations, it was referred to as the "Common Dining Room" under Van Buren. The State Dining Room is now used for all large luncheons and dinners where more than 100 guests may be accommodated.

Paneled in English oak, originally installed in 1902, the walls were painted pale green during the 1952 renovation. A green Geneva chenille rug covers the white oak floor. The window draperies are of gold silk damask. The ceiling, in plaster, is elaborately decorated. The fireplace on the west side of the room is faced with verde antique Vermont marble.

An antique mahogany table, presented in 1951, is placed at the center of the room. The elaborately decorated "surtout," perhaps the most outstanding of the French pieces imported by President Monroe, is set on the table. Several pieces of the Biddle collection are also displayed in the room. A large covered tureen on a tray (1778) is at the center of the "surtout;" a 4-light candelabrum (1810) at each end, and four compotieres (1812) are also on the table. On one side table is a pair of eagle-tipped candelabra (1810), and on another side table is a punch bowl, early 19th-century. On the north wall is an "over mantel," a gilt-framed painting of flowers over a mirror, presented in 1951 for King George VI of England by Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II. Two 18th-century candelabra, also a gift from King George VI, are placed on each side of the sideboard below the mirror.

Other furnishings in the room were purchased in 1902. The mahogany side chairs with high backs are upholstered in gold silk velvet. The

mahogany sideboard, with carved eagle legs, has a green marble top and bronze gallery, and the two serving tables are of similar design. The chandelier and wall sconces are silver plated.

The painting of Abraham Lincoln by G. P. A. Healy hangs on the west wall over the mantel. It was acquired by the White House in 1939 by the bequest of Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln

LIST OF DONORS

NAME	ARTICLE	DATE ACQUIRED
	LOBBY AND MAIN CORRIDOR	
Alsop, Joseph & Stewart, Washington, D. C.	Grandfather Clock (1950)	Stair landing, east of lobby
Anonymous	Crystal chandeliers, pair (1946)	Main Corridor
	EAST ROOM	
French Ambassador	Busts-Washington, Franklin & Jefferson (1908); Lincoln (1909)	
Lenyon, Mrs. Jeanette, New York, N.Y. (Memorial to Francis Henry Lenyon, 1877-1943)	"Adam" Sofas, pair (1951)	
Lockwood, Luke V. New York, N.Y.	Marble Urn, with pedestal (1947)	
Steinway, Theodore, New York, N.Y.	Grand Piano with bench (1938)	
	GREEN ROOM	
Biddle, Mrs. Margaret T. New York, N.Y.	Candlesticks, early 19th-century, pair, London. Vase urn, with mythological scenes, London, about 1800 (1957)	
Burden, Mr. & Mrs. William A.M., New York, N.Y.	Console tables, (1955) pair	
Crowninshield, Mrs. Francis B., Mont Chanin, Del.	Card tables, pair (1946)	
Dillon, Mrs. Clarence, Far Hills, New Jersey	Sofa, Sheraton, large (1929)	
Goodyear, Mrs. A. Conger, New York, N.Y.	Arm chairs, pair (1951)	
President Dwight D. Eisenhower Washington, D. C.	Portrait-Dwight D. Eisenhower by Thomas Stephens (1961)	
Pratt, Mrs. Harold I., New York, N.Y. (Chairman, White House Furnishings Committee, 1925-1947)	Arm chairs, barrel backs, pair, (1941) Side chairs, four (1946) Commode, Sheraton (1947)	
Straus, Herbert N., New York, N.Y.	Crystal chandelier (1930)	

BLUE ROOM

Biddle, Mrs. Margaret T. New York, N.Y.	Elephant urn, late 19th-century (Presented to Lt. Col. Thomas Monroe). (1957)
Crane, Mrs. Murray W. Washington, D. C.	Mirrors, wall, pair (1955)
Dale, Chester, New York, N.Y.	Crystal chandelier, Waterford (1947)
President Felix Faure of France	Vases, dark blue, pair (1898)
Republic of Ecuador	Portrait-G eorge Washington by Luis Cadena (1890).
Samuels, Mitchell New York, N.Y.	"Adam" mirror, c. 1690 (1946).

RED ROOM

Biddle, Mrs. Margaret T. New York, N.Y.	Candelabra, 3-branch, Caduceus cary atid, clawed feet Paul Storr, London, 1810. (1957). Single candlesticks, pair, London, 18th-century(1957).
Bliss, Mrs. Robert Woods, Washington, D. C.	Large sofa (1951)
Crowninshield, Mrs. Francis B. Mont Chenin, New Jersey, & Mrs. Harold I. Pratt, New York, N.Y.	Table lamps, painted scenes (1947)
Dandridge, Mrs. Betty Taylor (daughter of President Taylor) Winchester, Va.	Portrait-Zachary Taylor by Joseph H. Bush.
Davis, Mrs. Dwight Washington, D. C.	Wing chair (1946)
Pi Beta Phi Sorority	Portrait-Mrs. Calvin Coolidge by Howard Chandler Christy (c. 1924)
Pratt, Mrs. Harold I., New York, N.Y. (Chairman, White House Furnishings Committee, 1925-1947).	Consoles, gilt-eagle supports, marble tops, pair(1941) Nest of tables, inlaid tops, four (1931). Tip-top table, round (1941). Oval top tables, pair (1941). Drop leaf table, oval top (1941). Pie crust table (1935). Sewing table,(1929)
President Vincent Auriol of France	Musical clock, 18th-century (1952). Candelabra, 18th-century, 5-light (1952).

RED ROOM (continued)

President Harry S. Truman, Washington, D. C.	Portrait-President Harry S. Truman by Greta Kempton, (1953).
Rutherford, Mrs. John, New York, N.Y.	Crystal chandelier (1951)
Taylor, Myron C., New York, N.Y.	Portrait-President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Frank O. Salisbury (1947)
Wilson, Mrs. Woodrow, Washington, D. C.	Portrait-President Woodrow Wilson by F. Graham Cootes (1937).

STATE DINING ROOM

Biddle, Mrs. Margaret T. New York, N.Y.	Candelabra, 4-light, clawed feet, pair, Benjamin & Jacques Smith, London, 1810. (1957) Compotieres, four, Paul Storr, London, 1810. (1957) Covered tureen on tray, London, London, 1778. (1957) Candelabra, eagle tipped, Pitts, London, 1810. (1957) Punch bowl, early 19th-century, England, 1957. (1957)
Garrett, Mrs. George A., Washington, D. C.	Table, Chippendale (1951).
King George VI of England	Overmantel (1951) Candelabra, pair (1951)
Lincoln, Mrs. Robert Todd, Washington, D. C.	Bequest, Portrait-President Abraham Lincoln by George P. A. Healy (1939).